

Submitted: May 18, 2017
Approved: May 18, 2017

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 4-2017
Thursday, April 20, 2017**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Blue Crab Conference Room on
April 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Rob Achtmeyer, Chair
Emily Correll
Matthew Goguen
Anita Neal Powell

Present: Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner
Jim Wasilak, Chief of Zoning
Cynthia Walters, Deputy City Attorney
David Levy, Chief of Long Range Planning
Cindy Kebba, Principal Planner

Absent: Stefanie Tincher

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Blue Crab Conference Room)

Chair Achtmeyer introduced staff and noted that the worksession was held, and that no decisions were made. The Commission discussed having a conversation with a potential Commission member, which will be set before the May meeting.

II. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS (Mayor and Council Chamber)

- A. Peerless Rockville – Nancy Pickard, Executive Director, reported that the Emancipation to Integration series has been very successful, with over 75 attendees at each event. Prior events included a screening of a documentary on Rosenwald schools and a discussion on the William Gibbs case, significant to Montgomery County and the nation. She also announced an upcoming event celebrating the Carver Center, and noted that Peerless was very pleased that the Mayor and Council moved forward on the historic designation of the Americana Centre. She also noted that there would be a panel discussion on School Desegregation moderated by former Congresswoman Connie Morella on May 2.
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation – No report.
- C. Public Comments/Open Forum – No members of the public spoke.
- D. HDC and Staff Comments – Commissioner Goguen reported that he attended the MAHDC training session on ethics and defensible decision making sponsored by the City of Gaithersburg on March 29. He was pleased to see that the City of Gaithersburg HDC announce a preamble

for every meeting, outlining their credentials and standards employed in their decision-making. He also noted Gaithersburg's annual awards program. Chair Achtmeyer echoed Commissioner Goguen's comments. Sheila Bashiri announced that she will be teaching the MAHDC Design Review class at the Town of Bel Air on April 27, and that she had attended the DOCOMOMO National Conference in Phoenix, which showcased modern design.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 16, 2017

B. TIME EXTENSION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL HDC2016-00793, Erin Mahony – for a six-month time extension for replacement of aluminum windows with wood windows on the second story rear porch at 405 West Montgomery Avenue.

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Goguen, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Tincher absent.

IV. CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

A. Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00838, Morgan Sullivan – to replace a retaining wall in the rear yard at 16 Thomas Street.

Chair Achtmeyer disclosed that he lives in the same neighborhood as the applicant and knows him personally, but that would have no bearing on his decision in this matter.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report and recommendation, which was for approval.

Morgan Sullivan, applicant and property owner, explained the improvement project and answered questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Goguen, to approve Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00838. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Tincher absent.

B. Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00813, Daniel Nyquist – for replacement of steps to the screened porch, replacement of the double garage door with a single garage door and an entry door and siding, and replace storm doors at 17 Martins Lane.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report and recommendation, which was for approval.

Daniel Nyquist, applicant and property owner, clarified aspects of the project, which involved several unresolved items from the previously-approved application, and answered questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Goguen moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to approve Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00813, based on the proposal meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards No. 9. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Tincher absent.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Review of Draft Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan, Historic Preservation

Element – Cindy Kebba presented the draft historic preservation element of the Master Plan to the HDC. Chair Achtmeyer and Ms. Kebba praised Peerless Rockville and Heritage Montgomery for providing comments on the draft. She also summarized the Rockville 2040 process to date, with emphasis on public input.

Ms. Kebba reviewed the seven key policies of the draft, and asked for comment by the Commission. The Commission agreed that the timeline for developing design guidelines should be broader to include those properties that represent the mid to late 20th century rather than being limited to a date range. The Commission discussed the importance of alternative preservation techniques, such as conservation districts. The Commission recommended an increased social media presence for historic preservation in Rockville. The Commission recommended reinstituting the bronze plaques for designated properties, or some other recognition, and also discussed the importance of historic sign maintenance and adding other signs and walking tours.

Chair Achtmeyer noted that the Commission should provide comments by the July meeting for incorporation into the public hearing draft.

B. Update of Draft Historic Preservation Text Amendment – Jim Wasilak noted that the text amendment would be coming to the Mayor and Council on June 12 for a discussion and potential authorization to file, and that the HDC would then consider it at a subsequent meeting, likely September.

C. New Business – Chair Achtmeyer also suggested that the Commission’s agenda should reflect that the Agenda review part of the meeting is open to the public and is a review session for commissioners.

Ms. Bashiri noted that the consulting firm JMT is working on the update to the Historic Resources Management Plan.

She also asked the Commission if they would like to revert to the original meeting date (July 20) for the July meeting. Chair Achtmeyer asked commissioners to consult their calendars to determine whether the meeting should be changed back.

VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Achtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.